

# Homicide, Domestic Violence, Youth & Guns in Memphis

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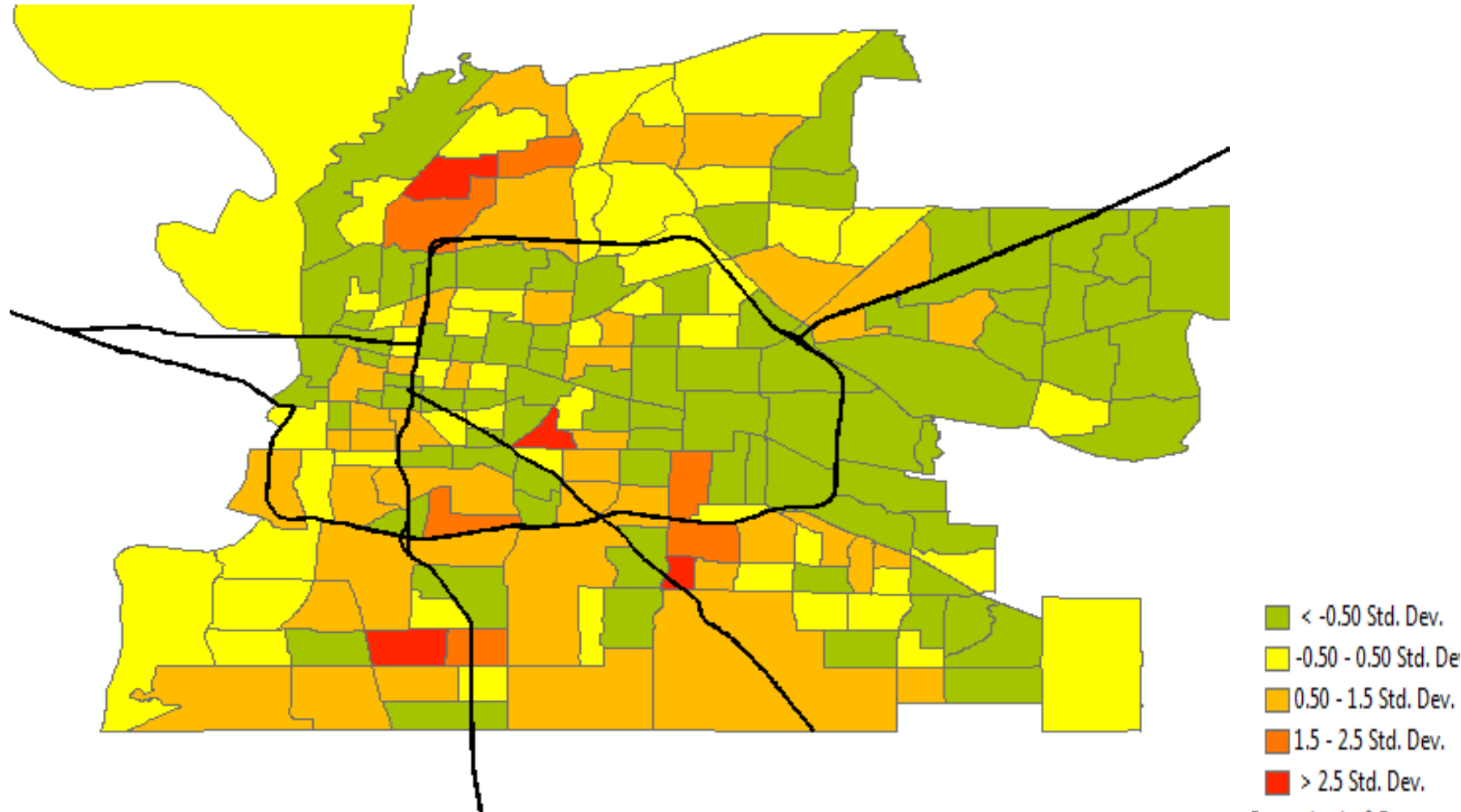
# Introduction

- This presentation results from various research conducted at the request of various agencies and for program development and implementation.
- Memphis Police Department, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, Shelby County Juvenile Court, Shelby County District Attorney General's Office, Family Safety Center

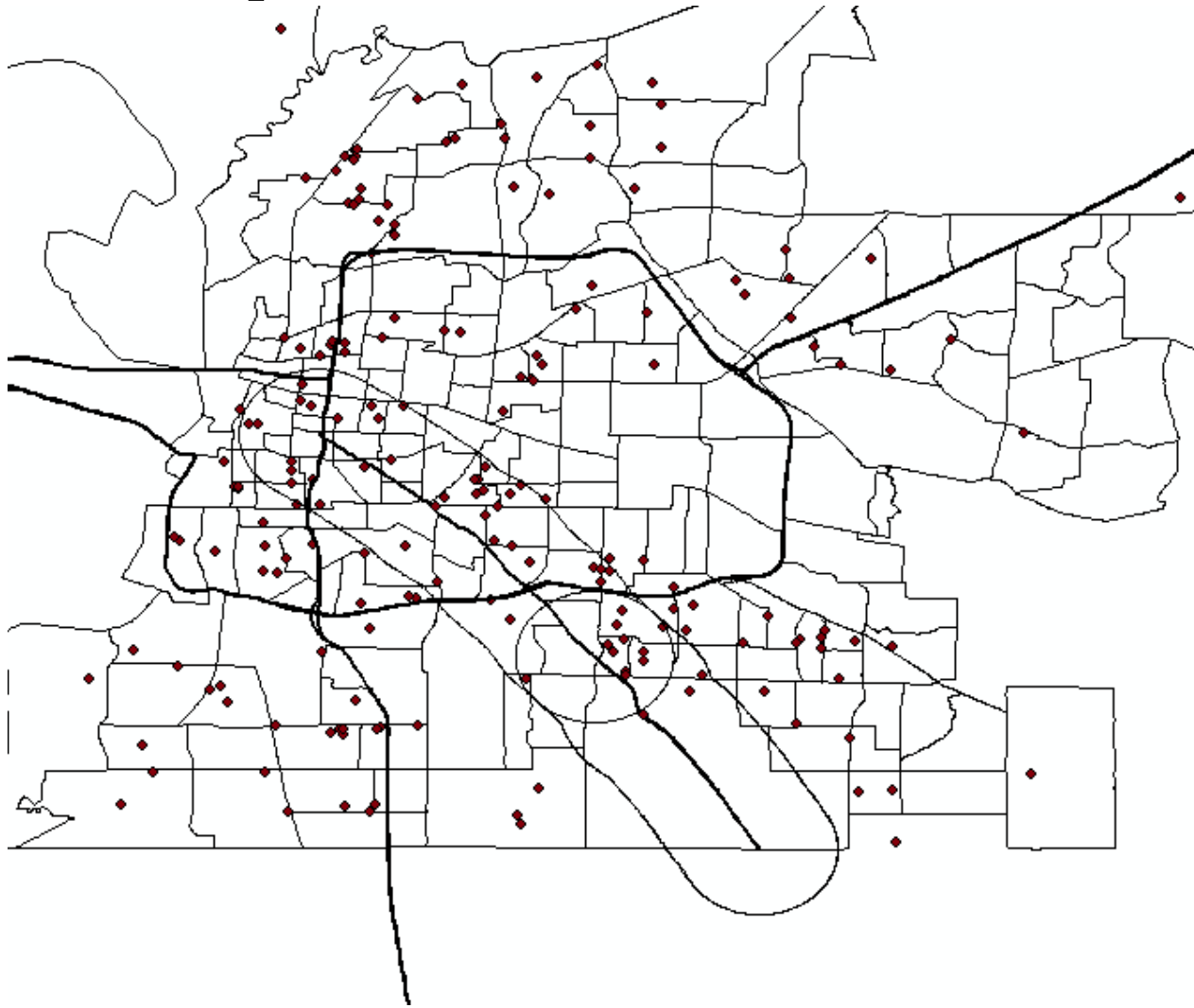
# Study 1: Homicide Research (2016)

- Homicides and supplemental homicide reports were evaluated and mapped
- Census tract level data were used along with other socioeconomic factors
  - Education
  - Residential Mobility (movement in and out of neighborhoods)

## Census Tracts Showing Deviation from “Average” in Number of Homicides: Red has the Highest Deviation from Average



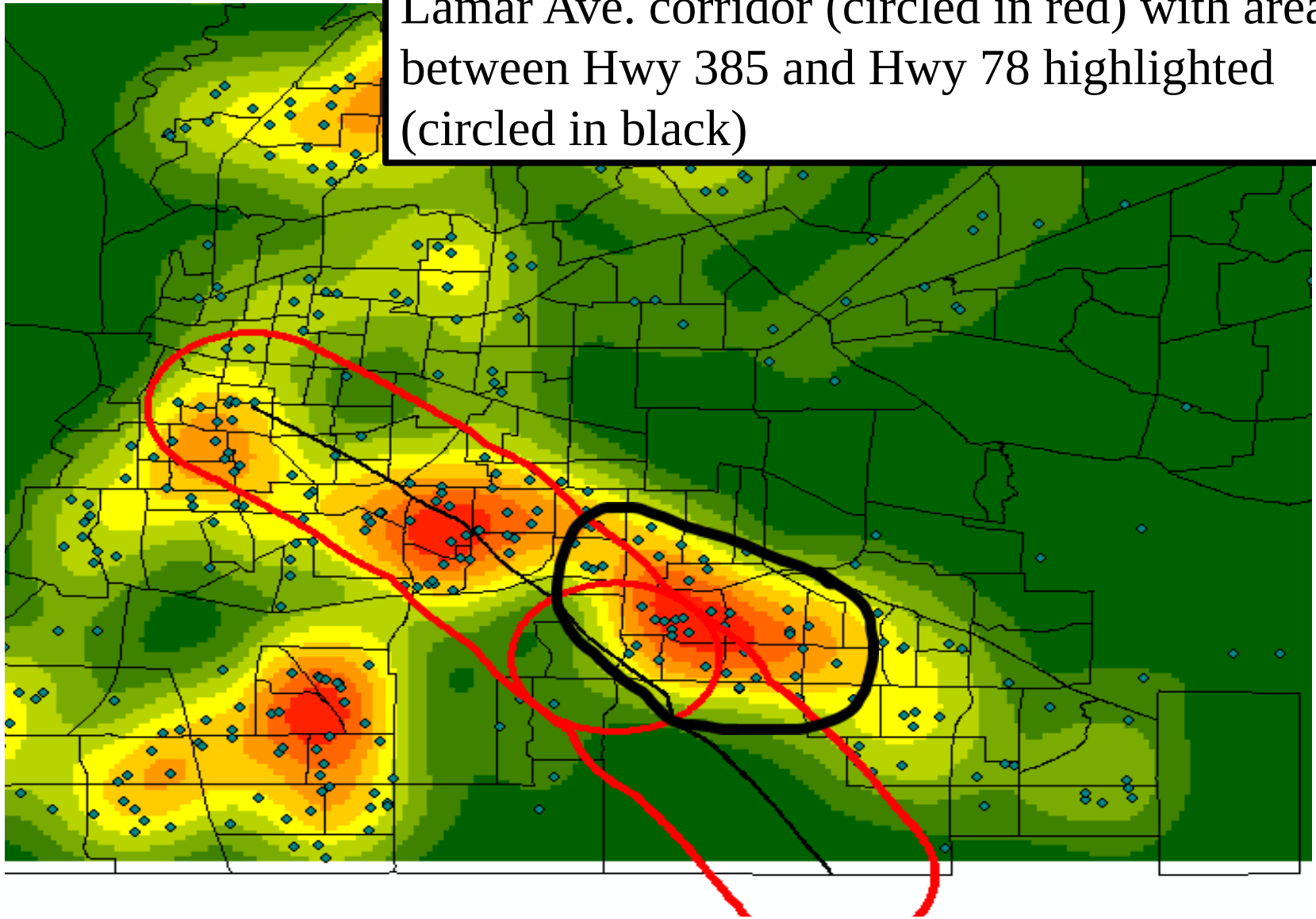
# Homicides In Memphis



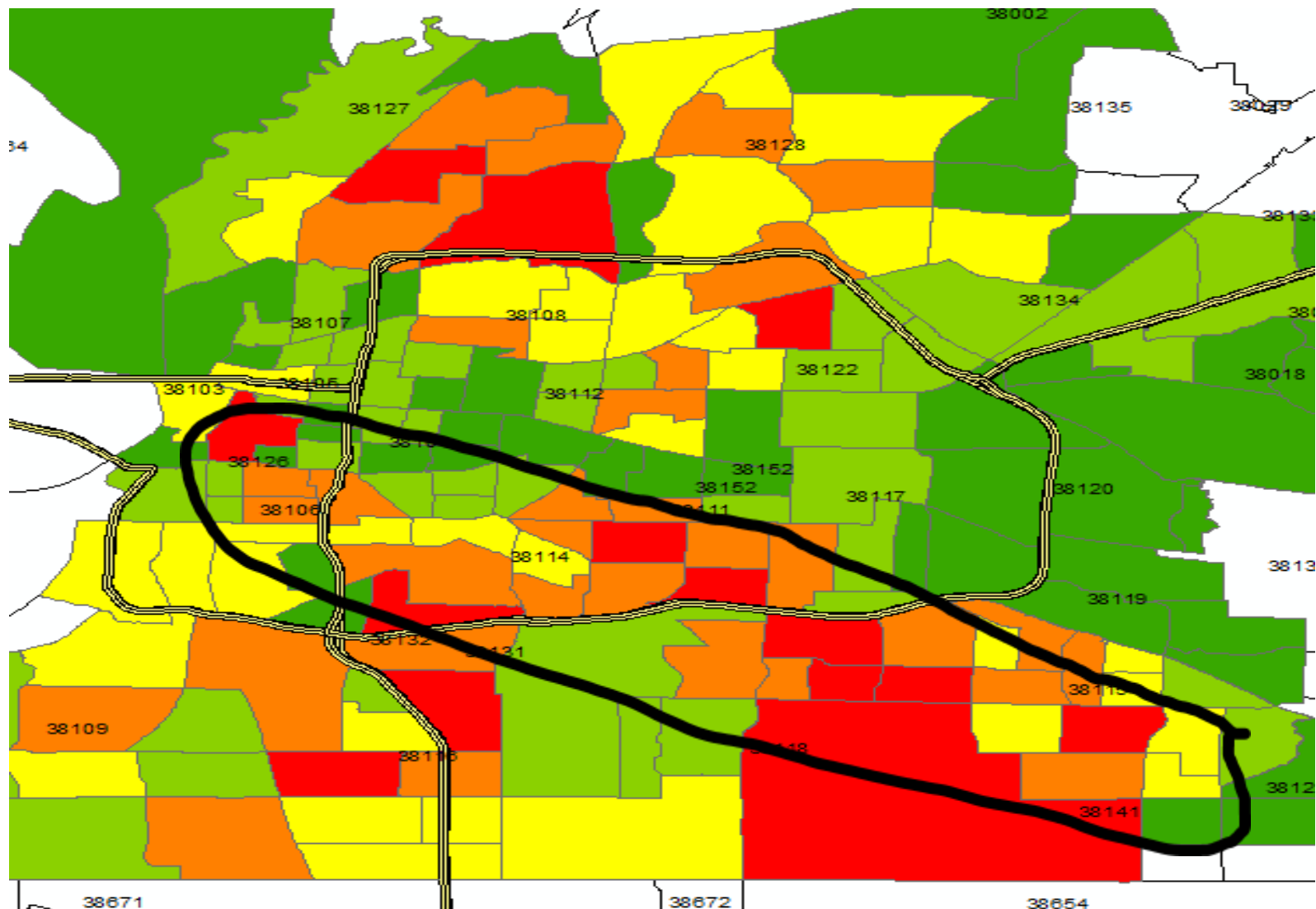
# Location of Homicides

- 26% of the homicide incidents within Memphis were within a 1.5 mile proximity of Lamar Ave.
  - This roadway crosses various precincts (Mt. Moriah, Ridgeway, Tillman, Crump, Airways)
- 14% were in Old Allen
- 16% were south of I-240, between Bill Morris Pkwy (Hwy 385) and Hwy 78 (Ridgeway and Mt. Moriah)

Lamar Ave. corridor (circled in red) with area between Hwy 385 and Hwy 78 highlighted (circled in black)



# Juvenile Violent Crime Counts by Census Tract



337 - 580



# Study 2: Lamar & Juvenile Domestic Violence (DV)

- About 25% of juveniles brought to juvenile court are brought for DV
- Home addresses of juvenile DV offenders were mapped
- 23% of all juvenile DV offenders lived within a 1.5 mile proximity of Lamar
- Violence is learned in the home, so DV is likely a precursor to neighborhood violence (rates of general violence high where rates of DV high)

# Homicide's Known Predictors

- “Economic Disadvantage”
  - Poverty, Unemployment, Median Income, Median Home Values, % Vacant Homes
- % Female-Headed Households
- % Black, % Hispanic
- “Social/Cultural Capital Disadvantage”
  - % of population age 25 and over without a high school diploma or GED
- “Residential Mobility”
  - % of the population who moved into the census tract between 2010 and 2015

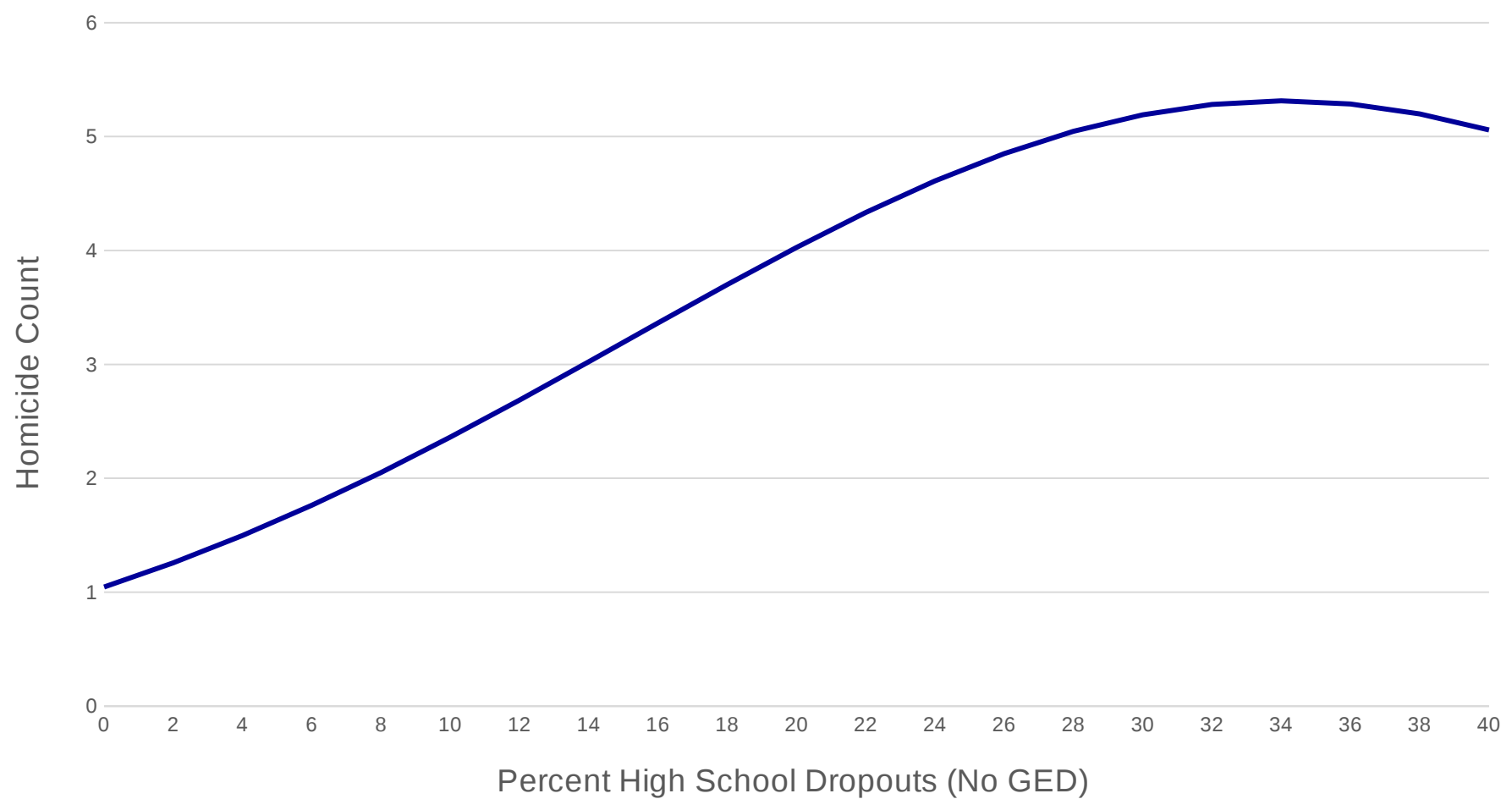
# What Predicts Homicide in Memphis?

- % of population age 25 and over without a high school diploma/GED
- Juvenile domestic violence
- Residential mobility
- % Black residents, but this relationship was weak

# What Predicts Homicide in Memphis?

- “Economic disadvantage” was not significantly associated with neighborhood homicides
- Family and child development are important in the development of antisocial and criminal behavior (Social Learning Theory & Social Bond Theory).
- Neighborhoods with significant populations without an ***education***, with high levels of ***juvenile DV*** and high ***residential mobility*** (a measure of neighborhood instability) had the highest numbers of homicides.

# Homicides and Percent of High School Dropouts

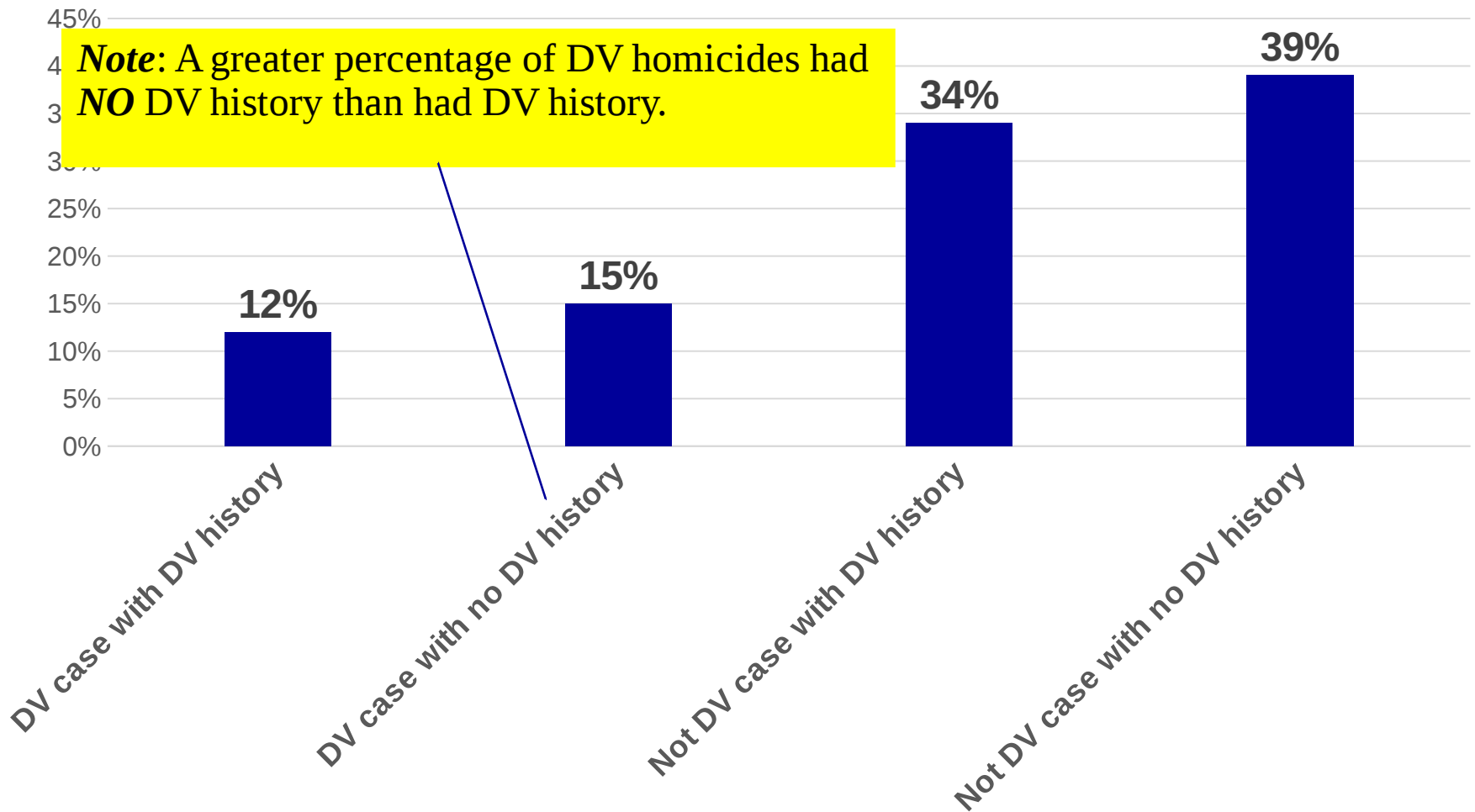


## Study 3: Homicide and Prior DV History (2015-2016)\*

- Was the homicide a “DV case”?
- Did either involved party have a “DV history”?
- **61% of homicides** were DV cases and/or involved a party with a DV history.
- The % would probably have been much higher had we looked back further
  - Only 39% had no DV connection.

*\*30 cases could not be determined*

# DV History Predicting Homicide



\*30 cases could not be classified

# Domestic Violence Predicts Homicide

- A history of domestic violence predicts not only domestic violence homicide but ***ALL homicide***
- 55% of robbery homicides
- 51% of “disagreement” homicides
- 45% of gang homicides



# Implications of Homicide Studies

- Risk factors for homicides (DV or not) are the same
  - Strategies to prevent homicide must include preventing DV
  - Increase education level in the community
  - Uncovering crime attractors and generators at the city level

# Implications of Homicide Studies

- **For police:**

- Crime prevention strategies should extend beyond precinct level
  - Increase communication
  - Interpreting Memphis as a larger unit
    - > City-level crime generators and attractors: streets, interstates, schools, apartments, and other physical features
- Notice to victims of services available
  - Police as educators of community resources

# Implications of Homicide Studies

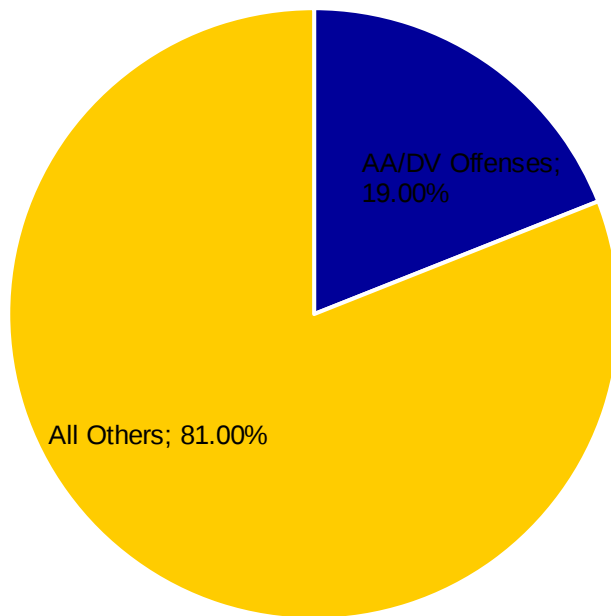
- **For community:**
  - Conflict resolution and domestic violence classes in schools
  - Focus efforts toward high school retention
  - Community GED programs

# Study 4: Guns, DV, and youth

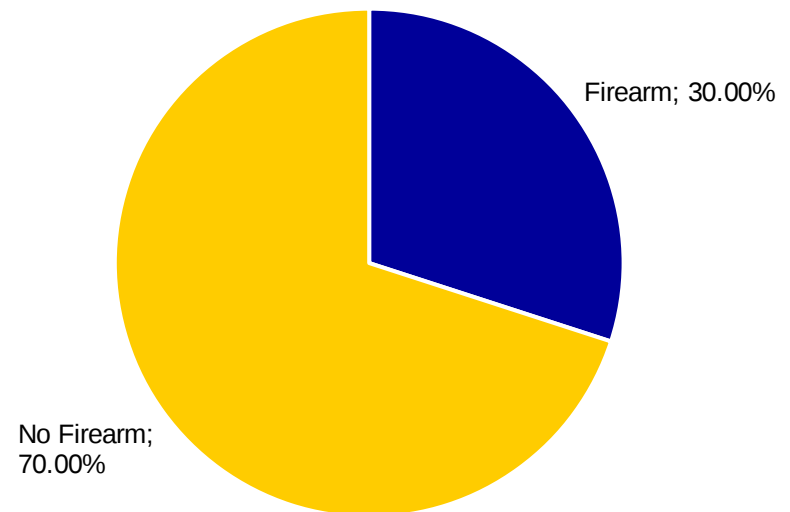
- Firearm violence, domestic violence, and youth involvement were evaluated.
- Both “offenses/reports” and “arrests” were examined.
- AA/DV: “aggravated assault/domestic violence”

# 2016 Violent & AA/DV Offenses/Reports

**19% of all violent offenses/reports were for AA/DV.**



**30% of these AA/DV offenses/reports involved a firearm.**

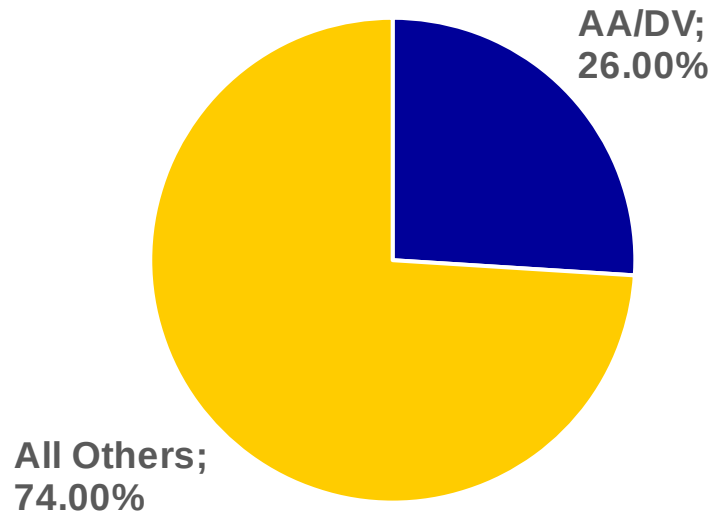


# 2016 Violent & AA/DV Arrests

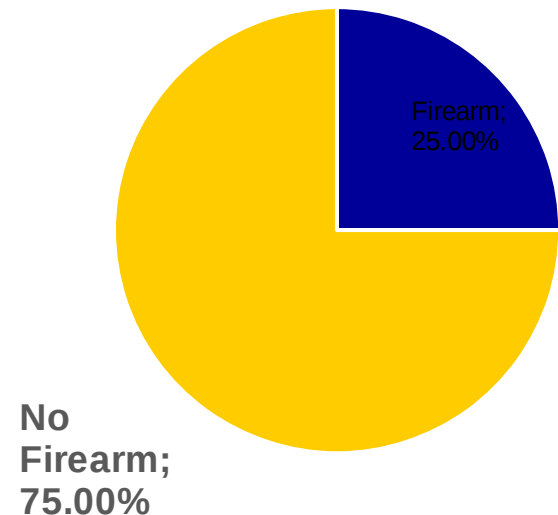
**26% of all arrests for violent crime were for AA/DV (500/1,915).**

**25% of these AA/DV arrests involved a firearm (125/500).**

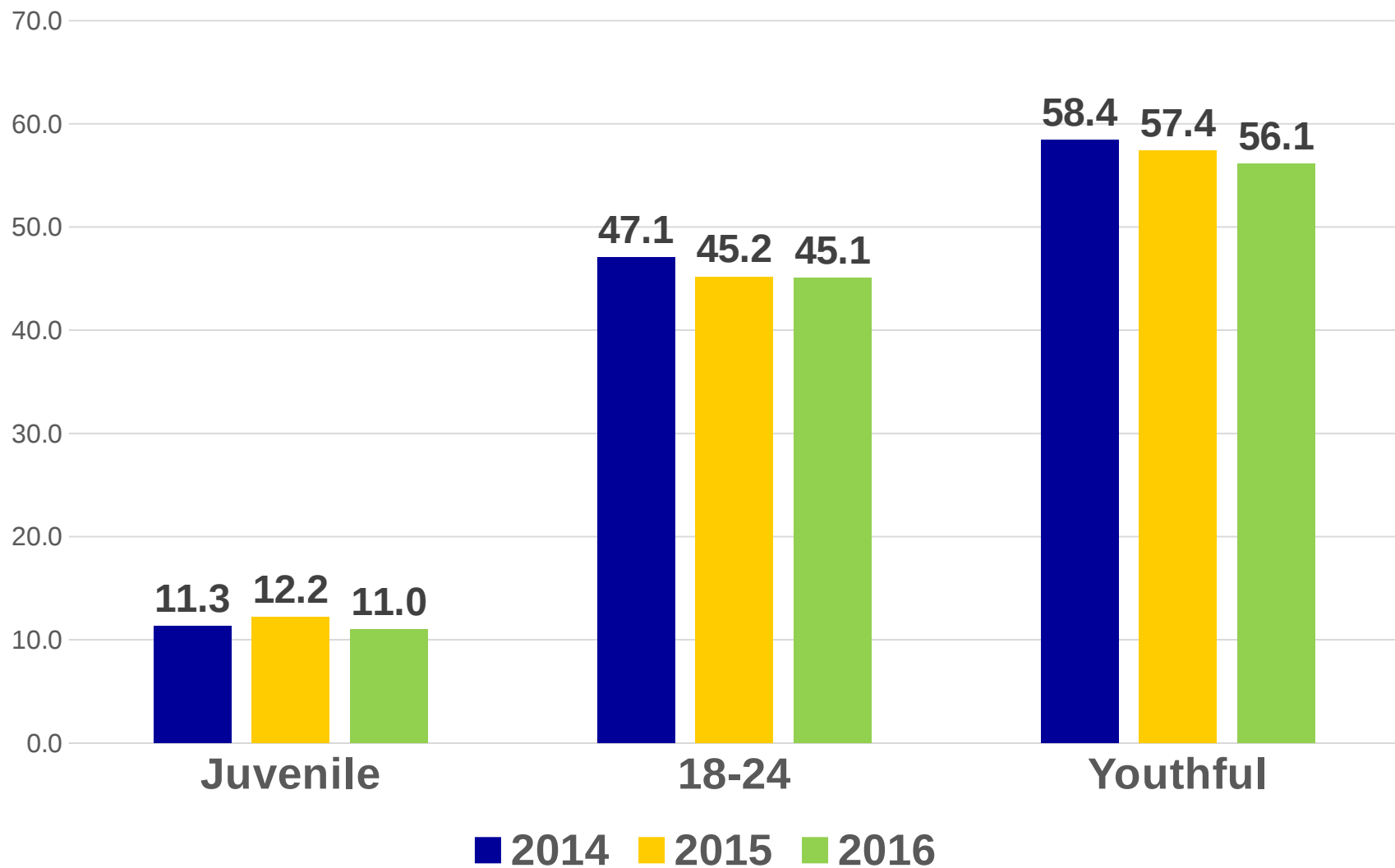
**Violent Crime Arrests**



**AA/DV Arrests**

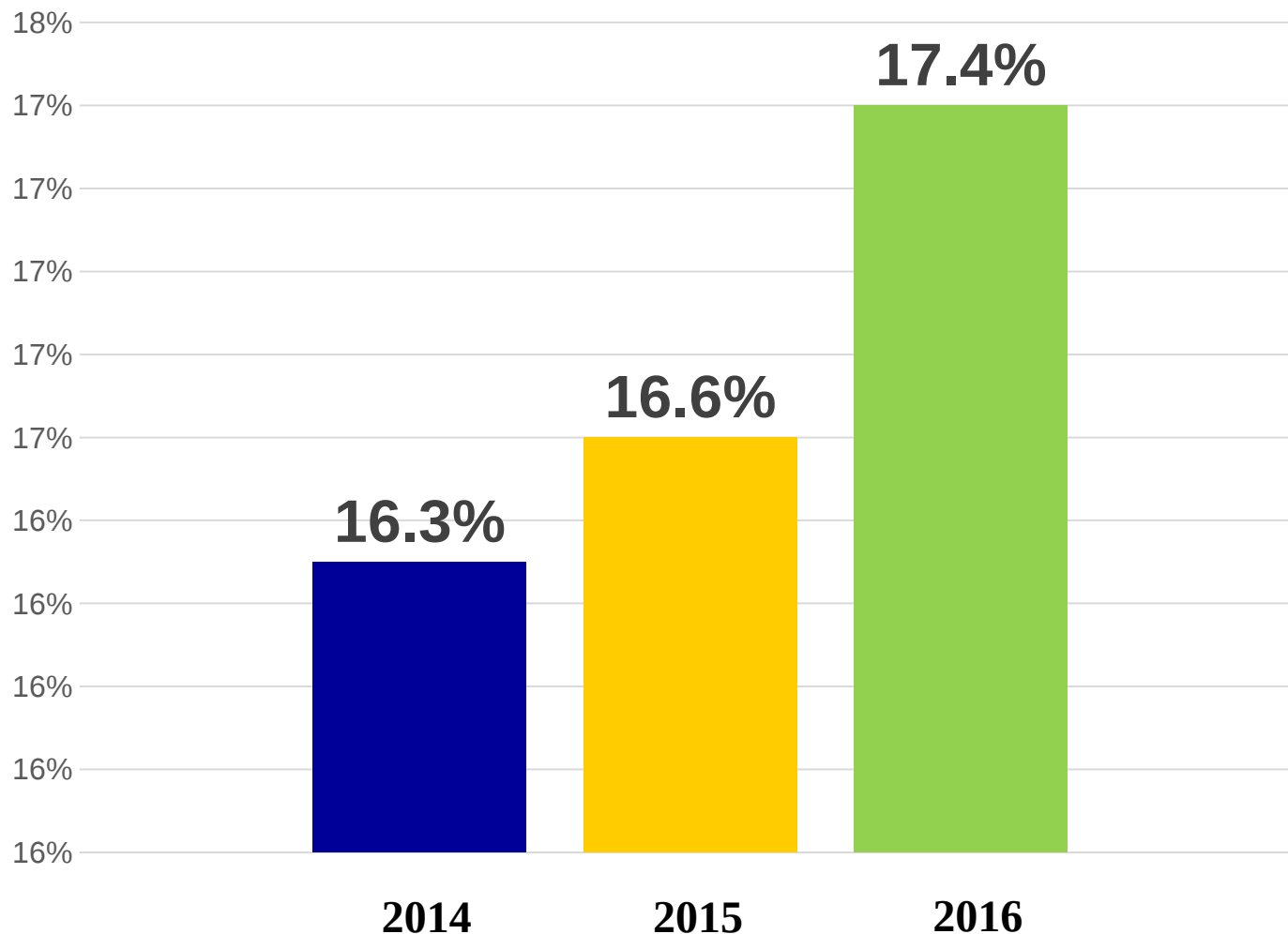


# Proportion of Gun Arrests by Age, 2014-2016



\*includes Weapon/Misdemeanor &  
Weapon/Felony

# Proportion of Juvenile Arrests for Violent\* Gun Crime: 2014-2016

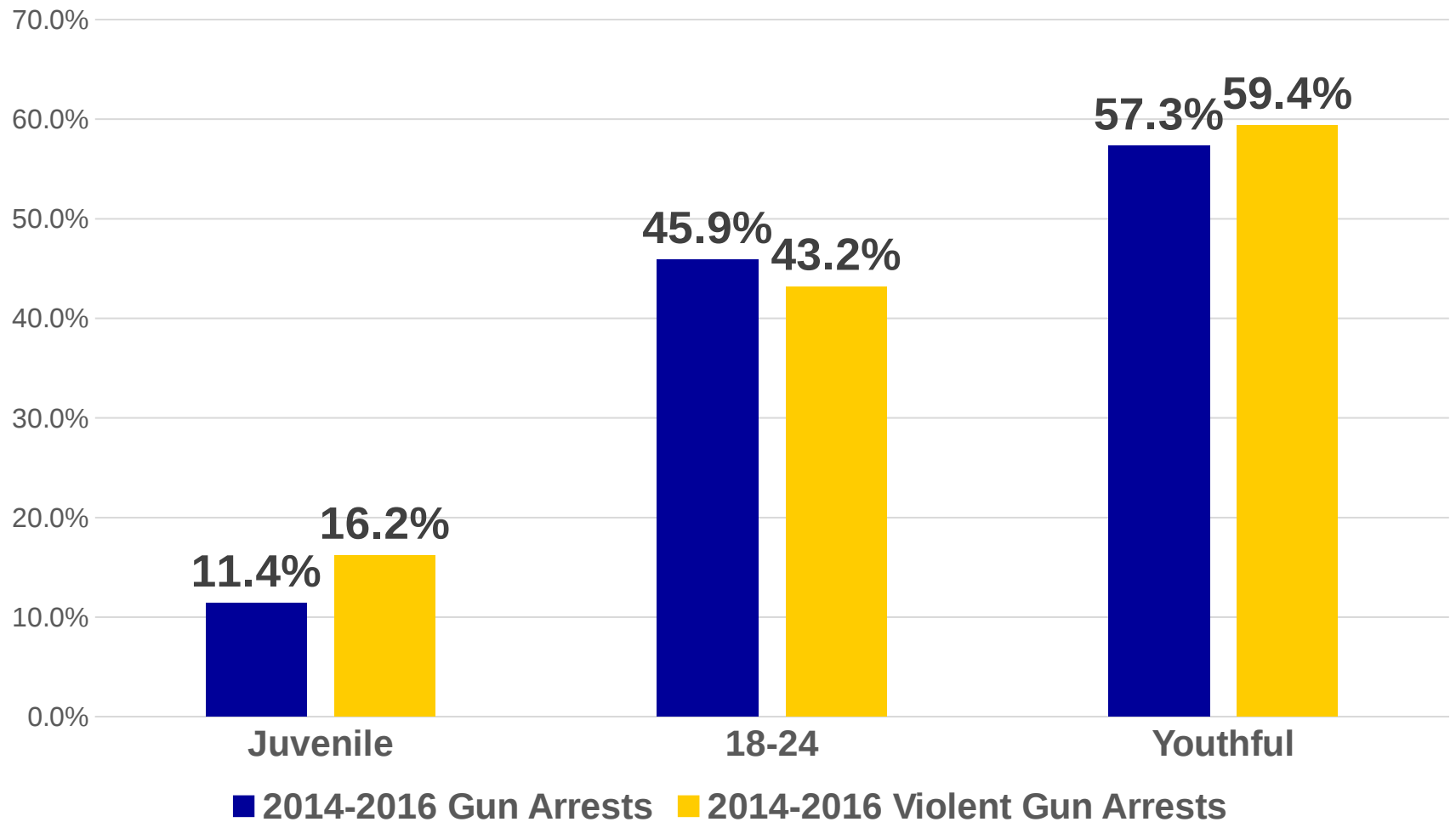


**The proportion of juvenile arrests for violent firearm crime increased 6.7% between 2014 and 2016.**

\*excludes Weapons/Misdemeanor & Weapons/Felony

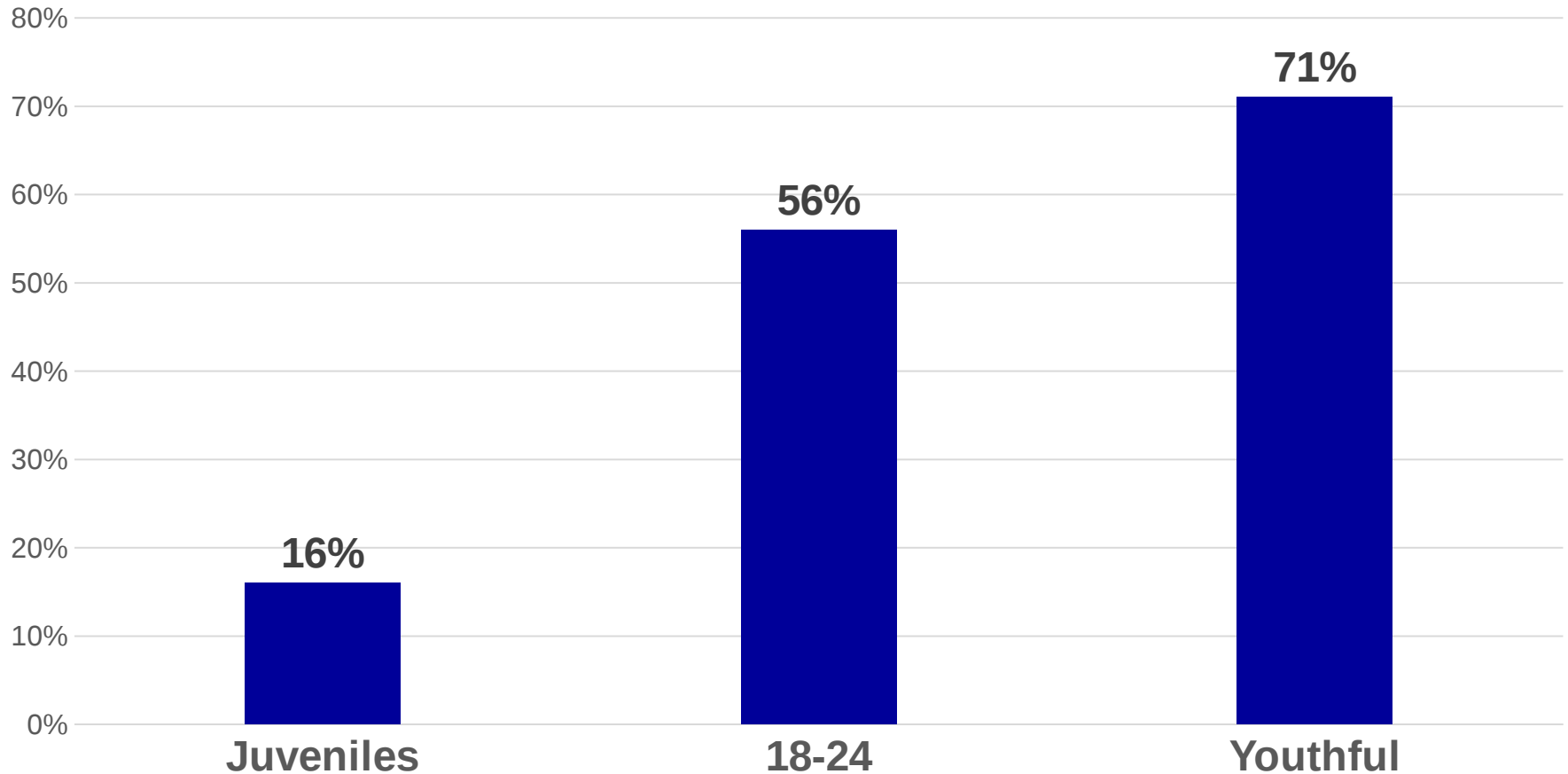


# Gun Arrests & Violent Gun Arrests by Age: 2014-2016



# Gun Crime Recidivists Since 2010

## By Age Group (2015 arrestees)



# Implications

- Gun violence, DV, youth, and homicide are all connected in Memphis.
- Juvenile and “youthful” involvement in violent gun crime is increasing.
- The proportion of violent crime committed with a firearm has increased nearly 11% since 2013 (from 41.7% to 46.1%).
- Gun violence prevention, suppression, and intervention programs are critical for youth.